

## CLAIMS

- 1       **1.**     A method of processing a multi-media editing project comprising:  
2             generating a request for one or more multi-media files for use in a multi-  
3             media editing project, the request being generated by a user computer that  
4             comprises part of a network where multi-media files are maintained in a network –  
5             accessible location;  
6             intercepting the request;  
7             ascertaining whether a requested multi-media file is located on the user  
8             computer;  
9             retrieving the multi-media file if the file is located on the user computer;  
10            and  
11            seeking the requested file from the network-accessible location if the multi-  
12            media file is not located on the user computer.  
13  
14  
15       **2.**     The method of claim 1 further comprising asking a user to designate a  
16             local directory if a requested file is not found on the user computer.  
17  
18       **3.**     The method of claim 1 further comprising asking a user to designate a  
19             local directory if a requested file is not found on the user computer, and then  
20             searching for the requested file in a designated local directory before seeking the  
21             requested file from the network-accessible location.  
22  
23       **4.**     The method of claim 1, wherein said ascertaining comprises checking  
24             various predetermined file directories on the computer's hard drive.  
25

1           **5.**     The method of claim 1, wherein said ascertaining comprises:  
2           maintaining a list of directories where multi-media files have been stored in  
3           the past; and  
4           checking directories on the list for the requested one or more files.

5  
6           **6.**     The method of claim 1, wherein said ascertaining comprises:  
7           maintaining a list of directories where multi-media files are stored; and  
8           checking directories on the list for the requested one or more files.

9  
10          **7.**     The method of claim 1, wherein said ascertaining comprises:  
11          maintaining a list of directories where multi-media files have been stored in  
12          the past or are presently stored; and  
13          checking directories on the list for the requested one or more files.

14  
15          **8.**     The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
16          maintaining a list of directories where multi-media files are stored; and  
17          updating the list responsive to receiving and storing a multi-media file in a  
18          local directory that is not on the list.

19  
20          **9.**     The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
21          maintaining a list of directories where multi-media files are stored; and  
22          updating the list responsive to a user designating a local directory that is not  
23          on the list.

1           **10.**   One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable  
2 instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the method  
3 of claim 1.

4  
5           **11.**   A multi-media project editing application configured for execution  
6 on a user computer, the application being configured to implement the method of  
7 claim 1.

8  
9           **12.**   A method of processing a multi-media editing project comprising:  
10 maintaining information on a local computer that comprises part of a  
11 network having multiple computers, said information being associated with multi-  
12 media files that are maintained in a network-accessible location and that can be  
13 temporarily stored on the local computer's hard drive; and

14 responsive to a request to retrieve a multi-media file from the network-  
15 accessible location, using the information to attempt to locate the requested file on  
16 the local computer's hard drive before attempting to retrieve the file in the  
17 network-accessible location.

18  
19           **13.**   The method of claim 12, wherein said information comprises a list  
20 of local directories where multi-media files are stored.

21  
22           **14.**   The method of claim 12, wherein said information comprises a list  
23 of local directories where multi-media files have been stored.

1           **15.**    The method of claim 12, wherein said information comprises a list  
2 of local directories where multi-media files are or have been stored.

3  
4           **16.**    The method of claim 12 wherein said information comprises a list of  
5 local directories where multi-media files are stored, and further comprising asking  
6 a user to designate one or more local directories where a requested multi-media  
7 file might be stored if the requested file cannot be located in the directories  
8 designated on the list.

9  
10          **17.**    The method of claim 16 further comprising updating the list  
11 responsive to a user designating the one or more directories, and searching for  
12 multi-media files in the one or more directories on subsequent attempts to locate  
13 requested files.

14  
15          **18.**    One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable  
16 instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the method  
17 of claim 12.

18  
19          **19.**    One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable  
20 instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

21                maintain a list on a local computer that comprises part of a network having  
22 multiple computers, said list being used to determine which local directories have  
23 been used in the past, or are currently being used to stored multi-media files that  
24 are maintained in a network-accessible location; and  
25

1 responsive to a request to retrieve a multi-media file from the network-  
2 accessible location, use the list to first attempt to locate the requested file on the  
3 local computer's hard drive.

4  
5 **20.** The computer-readable media of claim 19, wherein the instructions  
6 further cause the computer to attempt to retrieve the requested file in the network-  
7 accessible location in the event that the file cannot be located locally.

8  
9 **21.** The computer-readable media of claim 19, wherein the instructions  
10 cause the computer to check only those local directories that are contained in the  
11 list.

12  
13 **22.** The computer-readable media of claim 19, wherein the instructions  
14 cause the computer to ask a user to designate a local directory where a multi-  
15 media file might be stored in the event a requested file cannot be located on the  
16 local computer's hard drive.

17  
18 **23.** The computer-readable media of claim 22, wherein the instructions  
19 cause the computer to update the list to contain a local directory that the user  
20 designates.

1           **24.**     The computer-readable media of claim 22, wherein the instructions  
2 cause the computer to attempt to locate the multi-media file from the designated  
3 local directory before attempting to locate the requested multi-media file from the  
4 network-accessible location.

5  
6           **25.**     A method of processing a multi-media editing project comprising:  
7 receiving one or more multi-media files from a network-accessible location;  
8 locally storing the one or more multi-media files in a local directory on a  
9 user computer for use in a multi-media editing project;  
10 updating a list of local directories that contain or have contained multi-  
11 media files in the past in the event that the one or more multi-media files are  
12 stored in a local directory that is not contained in the list;  
13 responsive to receiving a request for a multi-media file that is maintained in  
14 the network-accessible location:  
15           first checking in all of the local directories on the list of local  
16 directories for the requested file; and  
17           second checking the network-accessible location for the requested  
18 file in the event the requested file is not found locally.

19  
20           **26.**     The method of claim 25 further comprising prior to second  
21 checking, asking a user to point to a local directory where the requested file might  
22 be stored and checking that local directory for the requested file.

1           **27.**     The method of claim 26, wherein said updating comprises doing so  
2 responsive to a user pointing to a local directory where the requested file might be  
3 stored.

4  
5           **28.**     The method of claim 25, wherein the multi-media files are read only  
6 files.

7  
8           **29.**     One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable  
9 instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the method  
10 of claim 25.

11  
12           **30.**     One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable  
13 instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

14                 maintain a list of local directories that are or have been used to store multi-  
15 media files on a local user computer, the multi-media files being accessible from a  
16 network storage location;

17                 generate a request for a multi-media file that is accessible from a network  
18 storage location, the request being intended for use in retrieving a multi-media file  
19 from the network accessible storage location;

20                 intercept the request;

21                 ascertain a requested file from the request;

22                 first, determine whether the requested file is locally available by checking  
23 all of the local directories maintained on the list and retrieve the requested file  
24 from a local directory if the file is locally maintained;

1 second, seek the requested file from the network storage location if the file  
2 is not locally maintained;

3 store the requested file in a local directory if the requested file is retrieved  
4 from the network storage location; and

5 update the list to reflect the local directory if the local directory in which  
6 the requested file is stored is not on the list.

7  
8 **31.** The computer-readable media of claim 30, wherein the instructions  
9 cause the computer to update the list responsive to input received from a user.

10  
11 **32.** A multi-media editing system comprising:  
12 a multi-media file locator object configured to intercept network-bound  
13 requests for multi-media files and determine whether requested files are locally  
14 maintained on a user computer; and

15 a list associated with the file locator object and referencing local file  
16 directories on the user computer where multi-media files are stored, the list being  
17 used by the file locator object to determine whether requested files are locally  
18 maintained on the user computer.

19  
20 **33.** The system of claim 32, wherein the list references local file  
21 directories where files have been maintained in the past.

22  
23 **34.** The system of claim 32, wherein the locator object is configured to  
24 update the list.



1       **35.**     The system of claim 32, wherein the locator object is configured to  
2     update the list responsive to a multi-media file being stored in a local directory  
3     where multi-media files have not been stored before.

4  
5       **36.**     The system of claim 32, wherein the locator object is configured to  
6     update the list responsive to a user designating a local directory where a multi-  
7     media file is stored.

8  
9       **37.**     The system of claim 32, wherein the locator object is configured to  
10    cause one or more multi-media files to be sought through the network in the event  
11    that the one or more files are not locally maintained.

12  
13       **38.**     The system of claim 32, wherein the locator object comprises a  
14    COM object.

15  
16       **39.**     The system of claim 32, wherein the locator object comprises an  
17    object-oriented object.